

SS InTouch – April

A school counselor's brief from the Indiana Department of Education

- **Spring Workshops on New Statewide Assessment** have just begun and are open to a five attendees from each school corporation. Note that at each workshop there is a special “5th breakout session” at each workshop just for administrators and school counselors focusing on concerns and updated information regarding the new assessments, including social studies, science, and the new GQE requirement. Registration is online at <http://www.doe.in.gov/istep/welcome.html> and requires your CTC (corporation test coordinator) username and password.

If you have questions, please contact Colin Riessen by calling 317-234-5595 or via email criessen@doe.in.gov

- **Ready for Gold Star?** - If your school counseling program is overwhelmed or needs a chance to refocus or reenergize – it may be time to consider becoming a Gold Star School. More than 100 Indiana elementary, middle and high schools are recognized Indiana Gold Star Schools and almost half of those are also Recognized ASCA Model Programs (RAMP) schools.

If you want to talk to counselors at Gold Star schools or want some general information about the Gold Star process – just reply to this e-mail. Applications to be involved in the 2008-09 Gold Star training are available at www.doe.in.gov/schoolcounseling under Hot Topics.

- **SSS Pilot** - Eight Indiana elementary and middle schools were selected for next month's Student Success Skills (SSS) pilot project training in Whiteland. For those schools that weren't selected but are still interested in this research-based program, training materials may be purchased online at <http://www.studentsuccessskills.com/materials.htm>
- **Information for 2008-09** – Here are some important things to note as you plan for the next school year:
 - **The 2008-09 fall and spring ISTEP+/GQE testing window dates** are now available (for both the OLD and NEW statewide assessments). You can find the dates on page 4 of the new State Assessment Q & A document at <http://www.doe.in.gov/istep/pdf/INStatewideAssessmentSystQA-021808.pdf>
 - **A Statewide School Counselor Calendar** – which includes both current and 2008-09 school year dates – is available at www.doe.in.gov/schoolcounseling
 - **Legislative and State Board Changes for 2008-09:**
 - are highlighted in the grade-level information below.
- **Elementary School Counselor Updates**
 - State-Level Changes to Note for 2008-09
 - The State Board of Education has proposed changing the rules that govern the curriculum at the elementary school level. You can read the draft rule at http://www.doe.in.gov/super/2008/03-March/032808/agenda_memo_regulatory_reform.pdf - beginning on page 3.

- The parents of 6th grade students, under new state law, must develop an “initial Graduation Plan” (earlier versions of this bill required a school counselor to do this, but the final wording states that it is a parent and student responsibility).
- The IDOE, with input from several counselors and Learn More Indiana, is developing a “Graduation Planner” which can be used with sixth grade students and parents next year.
- Remember, 21st Century Scholars eligibility extends to 6th grade students beginning in 08-09.
- ISCA’s Elementary School Counselor Retreat was so popular last year that it will be back again this fall. More details will be coming your way soon.

- **Middle School Counselor Updates**

- State-Level Changes to Note for 2008-09
 - The State Board of Education has proposed changing the rules that govern the curriculum at the middle school level. You can read the draft rule at http://www.doe.in.gov/super/2008/03-March/032808/agenda_memo_regulatory_reform.pdf - beginning on page 4
 - Note that the proposed rule change excludes specific language requiring Advisor-Advisee programs.
 - The parents of 6th grade students, under new state law, must develop an “initial Graduation Plan” (earlier versions of this bill required a school counselor to do this, but the final wording states that it is a parent and student responsibility).
 - The IDOE, with input from several counselors and Learn More Indiana, is developing a “Graduation Planner” which can be used with sixth grade students and parents next year.
 - Remember, 21st Century Scholars eligibility extends to 6th grade students beginning in 08-09.

- **High School Counselor Updates**

- Diploma seals and letters should be arriving at Indiana’s accredited high schools later this month (end of April). If you do not receive your seals and letters by May 15th, contact Tina Lovelady at tlovelad@doe.in.gov
- The state’s PSAT contract for fall 2008 has not yet been finalized but we are anticipating being able to cover the cost of 11th grade students in accredited schools taking the PSAT. We will have more details as soon as we get them.
- Work is underway to add college courses from Indiana’s independent/private colleges to the college Core Transfer Library. To see a list of the independent colleges currently working on this process, go to the CTL website at www.transferin.net/ctl and click on “Information on Independent Colleges...” just below the text. Find answers to other dual credit questions by going to www.transferin.net and clicking on “Dual Credit Information” on the lefthand side (in orange).
- NCAA is now a registered recipient of electronic transcripts (e-Transcripts) from Docufide. This means that all transcripts processed via e-Transcript to the NCAA will

be immediately delivered upon processing and the student will receive email notification as soon as the NCAA downloads their transcript.

- State-Level Changes to Note for 2008-09
 - The State Board of Education has proposed changing slightly the rules that govern the curriculum at the high school level. You can read the draft rule at http://www.doe.in.gov/super/2008/03-March/032808/agenda_memo_regulatory_reform.pdf - beginning on page 5
 - New state law requires high school transcripts to include “any dual credit courses taken that are included in the Core Transfer Library” beginning next school year.
 - Career plans will now be called “Graduation Plans” and must include an additional item – the names of any assessments that a student plans to take in grades 10-12 (such as SAT, ACT, AP, WorkKeys, etc).
- The Indiana Youth Institute (IYI) presents an audio conference titled: High School Graduation: The Terre Haute Example – which will discuss ways to raise the graduation rate of African-American students in Indiana. The audio conference will be Wednesday, April 23 3:00-4:00 and is free. To register, visit www.iyi.org or <https://www.telspan.com/Registration/AnonymousLandingPage.aspx?EventNo=2872>

Resources (lots of them this time!)

- To access **Resources for Supporting Military Children and Families** see the new link found on the School Counselor Website under “Hot Topics”:
<http://www.doe.state.in.us/sservices/sc.htm>. The direct link is:
http://www.doe.state.in.us/sservices/resources_military_children.html
- **Project Stepping Stone** registration is due this week. Remember it's a FREE, one-week program for any Hispanic student (preference given to juniors and seniors) in Indiana to help them successfully transition from high school to college and beyond. Read more and get an application at <http://www.projectsteppingstone.com/>
- The **Indiana Counseling Association's Spring Conference** is coming up this Sunday and Monday, April 20-21st at the Sheraton Centre at Keystone at the Crossing in Indianapolis. Find more details and register for the conference at:
http://www.indianacounseling.org/content.aspx?page_id=22&club_id=94517&module_id=28915
- The **11th Annual National WorkKeys Conference** will be at the Indianapolis Downtown Marriott next month – April 29th through May 2nd. Register at
<http://www.act.org/workkeys/conf/index.html>
- The Indiana Youth Institute is sponsoring a series of regional workshops this month and early May on “**Motivating Parents to Help Their Children**” by Dennis Bumgarner from the Chapel Hill Center for Brief Therapy. The workshops are \$45 and registration is at www.iyi.org/training_registration **Contact Nicole Brock with questions at nbrock@IYI.ORG**
- “**Fostering Resilience in Children and Teens in an Uncertain World**” is the topic of a free lunchtime program at Valle Vista Hospital in Greenwood on April 24th from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Please RSVP by calling 317-887-1348 OR 1-800-447-1348 OR emailing Kitina Young at kitina.young@psysolutions.com by April 21, 2008

- **Purpose-Guided Education** will be the focus of the Indiana Pathways to College Network (IPCN) Colloquium on April 25th at Ivy Tech in Indianapolis. Go to <http://www.inpathways.net/meetings.htm> to register.
- **The Impact of Traumatic Stress** is the focus of a workshop on Friday, May 2nd, at the Junior Achievement Center in Indianapolis. Registration is online at www.mhaindy.net (click on "Events.") For more information, call Joe Bartholomew at 317-251-0005 or at jbartholomew@mhaindy.net
- **Students with Disabilities Transitioning to College: A Free Conference for High School Educators, Administrators, Parents, & Students** will be offered on May 7th from 9:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the Ball State University Student Center (Forum Room) in Muncie.

This conference will address issues that are important for students with disabilities as they prepare for college. If you plan to attend, contact Aggie Niemiec, at aeniemiec@bsu.edu or 765-285-5293. Aggie will follow up with directions to campus and parking information.

- The India Studies Program at Indiana University will offer a **summer Intensive program for Hindi and Urdu** middle and high school students. The program is free and students can find more information at www.iub.edu/~indiast <<http://www.iub.edu/~indiast>>.
- **Students with Disabilities Transitioning to College** is the title of a free conference for high school educators, counselors (and parents and students) on May 7th from 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. at Ball State University. The conference will address issues that are important for students with disabilities as they prepare for college. To register or find out more, contact Aggie Niemiec, Associate Director of Disabled Student Development at Ball State University at aeniemiec@bsu.edu or 765-285-5293
- The Indiana Minority Health Coalition (IMHC) invites you to the **7th Annual Indiana Conference on Cultural Competency on Behavioral Healthcare** to be held on June 5, 2008. This year's theme will be Connecting Communities; Impacting Lives. Additional Info: 317-926-4011 x234.
- **The ASCA Annual Conference** will be June 28-July 1 in Atlanta, GA. Register at <http://www.schoolcounselor.org/content.asp?pl=325&sl=129&contentid=182>
- The Indiana Black Expo will hold a **Statewide Forum to Promote Cultural Competence in Education** on Friday, July 18th at the Indiana Convention Center – Keynote speakers include **Dr. Ruby Payne**, author of *A Framework for Understanding Poverty* and Dr. Jawanza Kunjufu, author of *Mis-Education of the Negro: Profile, Introduction and Study Questions*. For more information on conference and speakers: www.blackexpo.com
- **Grant Opportunity:** Teaching Tolerance from the Southern Poverty Law Center is awarding grants up to \$10,000 for programs that engage collaboration between educators, researchers, parents/guardians and student groups that aim to equalize students' experience in schools. For more information on the requirements for the grant application, please visit <http://www.tolerance.org/teach/grants/schoolgrants.jsp>

The deadline to submit Letters of Inquiry is May 15, 2008. For additional, grant opportunities, visit: http://www.doe.state.in.us/sservices/counseling/counseling_specific_grants.pdf

Sign up for SS InTouch at <http://listserv.doe.in.gov/mailman/listinfo/intouch>

Find archived editions of SS InTouch at www.doe.in.gov/schoolcounseling under “Resources”

*Direct questions or comments to Amanda Snobarger at asnobarg@doe.in.gov – 317-232-9136 or
Matt Fleck – 317.232.9172 – mfleck@doe.in.gov*